

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action dated May 9, 2005. Claims 1-3 have been amended and Claim 4 and 19 have been cancelled, without intending to abandon or dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Claims 20-37 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-3 and 20-37 are now pending.

Restriction Requirement

The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Restriction Requirement. More specifically, "there must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is required." MPEP §803. The Examiner has asserted that Claims 1-3, 4-7, 8-11 and 12-19 have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification. Applicants respectfully question the allocation of classification, especially in reference to Claims 1-3, 4-7 and 12-19. For example, Claims 1-3 and 4-7 are very similar with respect to limitations, generally the only difference being Claims 4-7 were written in means-plus-function language. Further, all claims reside in Class 134, wherein examination of other than the primary subclass cited will necessary have to be performed, thus it is difficult to understand the "serious burden" on the Examiner.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-3 have been amended to replace each occurrence of "said" with - - the - -.

Claims 20-26 have been added, which are dependent on Claim 1, and include limitations from cancelled Claims 12-19.

Claims 27-37 have been added and are believed indistinct from Claims 1-3 and 20-26.

Conclusion

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for examination and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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